CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY TREATMENT EXPANSION FOR GENERAL ASSISTANCE UNEMPLOYABLE (GAU) POPULATION

Access to chemical dependency treatment for people who are receiving financial and medical public assistance through the General Assistance Unemployable (GAU) program is part of **Treatment Expansion funding from the 2005 Legislature**. The treatment services are **NOT** billed and paid through the Community Health Plan with the use of the Services ID card. The treatment services are billed either to the county for outpatient services or directly to DBHR for residential services.

The Community Services Office (CSO) **should not** transfer a client from GAU to ADATSA when they go into treatment.

The county/residential treatment provider must communicate and coordinate placement of the GAU client into treatment with the client's local CSO in order to avoid termination of benefits while in treatment. Upon entrance into residential treatment, consent should be obtained so that CHP can also be notified and assist in coordinating outpatient care.

- GAU clients **do not** need to go to an ADATSA Assessment agency if they need residential treatment.
- The assessment can be provided by the county-contracted outpatient provider or a residential provider. Not all residential providers have chosen to provide assessments.
- The agency that completes the assessment is expected to assist or coordinate the transportation arrangements to residential treatment, if it is needed. If the client has a funding source that will pay for transportation, it should be used. A listing of transportation brokers to outpatient treatment for Medicaid is available at http://hrsa.dshs.wa.gov/Transportation/index.html.
- If the residential agency decides it cannot provide the level of care needed by the client, they must assist the client to access the agency that can provide the level of care needed, including assisting in providing transportation to the other agency.
- The outpatient provider can refer the client to the residential treatment agency but must identify the client as "GAU", send a copy of the assessment, and send any other relevant information (CHP membership card and consent, TB test, etc.)
- Residential agencies may conduct assessments if a GAU client goes directly to a residential treatment agency. DBHR provides a directory of residential chemical dependency treatment agencies that have the Treatment Expansion Funding on our website at:
  http://www.dshs.wa.gov/DASA/services/certification/Directory/Directory.shtml.
- Residential agencies that have ADATSA beds can serve any publically funded client. They are not limited to only ADATSA clients. However providers using ADATSA funding for GAU clients will be charged against their allotted ADATSA beds. Residential agencies that have ADATSA and Treatment Expansion and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) beds can also serve any client. They can place only the TANF client in a TANF bed and only a public assistance client in a treatment expansion bed, but they can place any client

in an ADATSA bed. Residential agencies cannot place an ADATSA client in a Treatment Expansion or TANF bed.

- TARGET has been revised to no longer require an ADATSA assessment for people who are in the GAU population in order to be admitted to residential treatment.
- GAU clients must be correctly identified by public assistance program in TARGET.
- Any changes to the client's public assistance program must also be indicated in TARGET. Entering these changes is essential to the identification of the number of clients served under the treatment expansion funding and mandates.
  - ➢ Agencies need to check a GAU client's eligibility every month as many of these clients become General Assistance Expedited Disability (GAX) or SSI after a few months.
  - ➢ An agency may enter "Applicant" in this field because the person is in the application process at the Community Service Office (CSO).
  - ➢ If "Applicant" is entered, it must be changed within 60 days based on the decision made at the CSO.